

Live Intentionally!

You were called by God to inherit a blessing! 1 Peter 3:9 declares, "... not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."

Satan constantly is looking for ways to steal, kill, and destroy every relationship in your life. He wants you to let your guard down; he wants you to give him free access so that he can continue plaguing your life with more evil. But God is always looking to bless you! That is why Jesus came. We react and blow up when something violates our personal space. Has that ever happened to you? Up and down! Life becomes a roller coaster and we are not the ones in control! Sickness is also tied to this vicious cycle. Sickness is the outward result of something that has been going on internally for some time. Health is more than just removing the symptom. The source of what's broken must first be found and repaired. Instead of living by emotion and outward circumstance God has a better idea: live intentionally! Live by choice. Change begins when we choose to bless when you have every right to retaliate instead.

When Peter says "*not returning evil for evil*" he is referring to payback. That's what the word "*returning*" means. Now the devil is the master to manipulate you into the need and right to "get even!" He begins his deception with the way you perceive things, whether real or imaginary. If you feel sick, or mistreated or berated, because of something someone said, this gives you the right to respond back in like manner. This is the vicious cycle of negative sowing that the devil uses to destroy families, marriages, churches, careers, and even your health.

God has a better idea! He says, "Don't retaliate. Don't pay back. Don't try to get even! But instead ... bless!" God's way is blessing. This word for blessing is EULOGETES. A compound word made up of EU, which means "something wonderful, pleasurable, or very good", and the word LOGOS, which is the word for "words"! *Blessing* literally could be translated here "*wonderful words*". Life may bring disappointment. But in those moments when you feel violated or riled up, instead of venting according to the flesh, allow the Holy Spirit to take over. Don't retaliate but return inconsiderate acts with words of love! Instead of taking offense, speak words that build up. It's your choice! Your words can be the very force to turn the gravest situation around. God gives blessing through the power of life in your words! So live intentionally. Do not react emotionally. In Christ Jesus your life will remain healthy and strong. Then you can be a source of P.E.A.C.E. to others.

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